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There have been many changes in the revisions but only a few of a decidedly radical character. Two have received considerable publicity and may well be mentioned. First, the change from the use of the term cubic centimeter or c.c. to the more logical term milliliter or mil. Secondly, the deletion of whiskey and brandy from the *Pharmacopoeia*, due to the difficulty the committee encountered in determining suitable standards rather than to a question of their therapeutic value or from a moral standpoint as has been suggested. However, there has been a tendency toward lowering the alcoholic percentage in all preparations warranting such a reduction. There has also been an effort made toward the conformation of standards with the standards required in the pharmacopoeias of other nations, which is one step nearer an international pharmacopoeia.

Michigan.

NORMA C. HAWLEY, PH.C.

WHISKEY AND BRANDY AS DRUGS

DEAR EDITOR: The letter of Mrs. E. J. M. is a welcome evidence of the increasing interest of nurses regarding the use of alcohol. May I lay before the JOURNAL readers some of the evidence collected by Mrs. Martha M. Allen, Superintendent of the Department of Medical Temperance of the World's and National W. C. T. U.? In 1910, knowing that the revision of the *Pharmacopoeia* was in progress, Mrs. Allen wrote every member of the committee, asking that whiskey and brandy be dropped, as port, sherry and medicated wines had been. She received many courteous and encouraging replies. Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chairman of the committee, said there was no good reason for retaining whiskey and brandy, so few physicians now prescribe them. Physicians here and in Europe are denouncing the medical use of alcohol on the ground that it is a narcotic, not a stimulant, and injures, while seeming to be a benefit. Other doctors have testified as follows:

"No physician who has closely investigated the action of alcohol in recent years prescribes alcohol. It is rapidly disappearing from both hospital and private practice."—*Sir Victor Horsley.*

"Nowadays we recognize that instead of increasing the ability to withstand disease, alcohol decreases the vitality and leaves the body less able to throw off the germs of disease."—*Dr. Woods Hutchinson.*

"In the hospital with which I am connected there is not a one-hundredth part of the alcohol prescribed that was prescribed twenty-five years ago."—*Dr. C. L. Reid, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

"Alcohol masks the symptoms of disease so that we cannot know the patient's real condition."—*J. H. Musser, M.D., ex-president American Medical Association.*

"It is time alcohol was banished from the medical armamentarium; whiskey has killed thousands where it has cured one."—*J. N. McCormack, M.D., secretary Kentucky Board of Health.*

"Physicians are using it (alcohol) less and less in the treatment of disease, owing to the recognition that it is a narcotic, not a stimulant, and that narcotics are usually better when a narcotic is required."—*Richard C. Cabot, Boston.*

"Alcohol is a poison. It is claimed by some that alcohol is a food. If so, it is a poisoned food."—*Frederick Peterson, M.D., Columbia University Medical School.*

"You are right in indicting alcohol for its insidious wrongs to humanity.

. . . . It exhausts the latent energy of the organism often when that power is most needed to conserve the failing strength of the body in the battle with disease."—*Dr. C. H. Hughes, St. Louis, President of the Neurological Association of America.*

The following resolution was passed by the West Virginia Medical Society at its annual meeting in 1908:

"Resolved, That we deplore the fact that our profession has been quoted so long as claiming for it virtues which it does not possess, and that we earnestly pledge ourselves to discourage the use of it both in and out of the sick room."

Such testimonies against the use of alcohol as a remedy might be many times multiplied but these are illustrative of the best medical opinion. Their sentiment has been enacted into law in many of the prohibition states, and the prescription of wines and liquors forbidden, not only because of the alcohol they contain but because of their doubtful composition. In some states the prescription of ethyl alcohol is permitted under severe restrictions and with heavy penalties for violation of the law. Nurses working in prohibition states should, for self-protection, acquaint themselves with the law in this matter.

Wonderful laboratory work, both in this country and abroad, has shown the deleterious effect of alcohol on the organs and functions of the body. I have quoted from material gathered by Mrs. Martha M. Allen, referred to above, nurses wishing to follow the subject further can obtain leaflets from her which are a storehouse of knowledge. It is a subject in which we should be deeply interested and well informed, in order that we may inform others.

New York.

E. BERTHA BRADLEY.

FROM "THE BORDER"

DEAR EDITOR: Of course the work down here is vastly different from that at the regular army hospitals, but I like it. At present it is very heavy. Our ward is the measles-pneumonia, and all other complications. It doesn't matter how hard it is, so long as we get results, and we do. I never dreamed there could be so much pneumonia at any one time. It has a fascination, keeping the eyes clean, the ears irrigated, and the mouth, and watching those poor, poor boys get better from day to day. Some of the boys are filthy and to some minds not worth the effort, but a life is a life. Then again, you come across a nice clean boy that makes you double your efforts and fight for them all. We alternate; some of us work from 7 a.m. to 9, then off duty, back again at 2 p.m., then the others are off from 2 p.m. until the next morning. The night nurses have straight twelve-hour duty. This country is wonderful and the climate just suits me. Last Sunday it snowed hard and long and this morning the water in the men's drinking glasses was frozen. Of course all our pneumonia cases are on the porch. We have sixteen active cases, five just over the crisis, four convalescents, and twelve or fourteen active measles cases in our ward alone. Our chief nurse is charming and though the life here is not gay, we are all congenial, and many a night we have kimono feasts. I never felt better in my life, nor do I ever remember being so hungry all the time. Some of the nurses fail to see where the experience comes in, but to my mind it is just the way they look upon life and their work.

C. R.